

Please cancel the amendment to the specification at page 4, line 6, after "blank 11.", filed on or about April 8, 1997.

Please cancel the amendment to the specification at page 4, line 27, after "tampon 10.", filed on or about August 19, 1994.

At page 8, line 29, after "distance of", please insert -- 2 to --.

At page 8, lines 30-31, after ". . .", please delete the sentence "This distance can also be smaller, for example 2 mm."

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as follows:

Please cancel Claim 28 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 9-12, 14-19, 23-26, and 28 were pending in the present application. These claims have been examined and stand rejected. By the amendment above, Claim 28 has been canceled. Therefore, Claims 9-12, 14-19, and 23-28 are pending in the present application.

Objections

First, the Office Action objected to the declaration for containing non-initialed alterations. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of this objection. First, the Office Action (referring to Paper No. 28) does not allege that the statements pertaining to the veracity of the declared statements or the duties of the inventors of the declaration has been altered. The alterations identified in Paper No. 28 relate to the residence of one inventor and the citizenship of the other. These are factual matters, and they do not affect the veracity of